

I've lived on West Lake at 122 Sunset Circle, Guilford, CT for 17 years, and up until this past summer I frequently had summer parties, with my friends and their grandchildren swimming off my dock in the lake's clean, spring-fed waters. The lake was still clean until the middle of this past summer, when algal blooms, large plant die-offs, and floating muck islands started to appear. Meanwhile a friend pointed out that there was a tiny fine-print June 26, 2021 notice in the local Guilford Courier newspaper stating that All Habitat Services was possibly going to apply herbicides to West Lake for any of 71 possible dates mentioned, which covered the entire rest of the summer. These herbicides could include Glyphosate, Copper TEA, and Diquat Bromide, so "Do not use the water for drinking, swimming, or even for livestock watering. etc." And this is where my friends and their grandchildren would otherwise be swimming! Thus I and my lakeside neighbors are losing the use of our precious lake due to possibly cancer-causing herbicides, plus we are seeing our lake fouled by the algal results of these herbicides. Would you let your grandchild (or even your pet) swim in water that isn't even suitable for watering livestock?

I have to admit that such herbicides are legal in Connecticut, even though some of them are banned as carcinogens in other countries, but I highly recommend that they be made illegal. Absent that, anyone applying such herbicides should do so on a specific date (not 71 dates), and should notify all lakeside residents well in advance of that specific date. This applies not only to All Habitat but to anyone applying herbicides to West Lake (and all Connecticut lakes), including individual landowners.

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